EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sunil Raval on 1/28/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An inhaler for the delivery of a dose of a powdered medicament for inhalation by a user comprising a housing containing a cylinder and a piston together defining a chamber, the piston and the cylinder being slideable relative to each other during a compression stroke in response to the application of a load thereto by the user to generate a charge of compressed air in the chamber for entraining a the dose when the charge is released, the inhaler including means for increasing the mechanical advantage during a the compression stroke so that the effort applied by the user remains substantially constant throughout the compression stroke irrespective of the increase in pressure in the chamber;

wherein the effort applied by the user during the compression stroke is a torque operable to rotate the piston and said means is configured so that the linear distance traveled by the piston per angle through which it rotates during the compression stroke reduces to increase the mechanical advantage.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended) An inhaler according to claim ~~2~~1,wherein the means comprises a cam track and a pin located in the cam track so as to slide freely therein during rotation of the piston.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): An inhaler according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ ends of the helical portion of the cam track are joined by a second straight portion of cam track extending parallel to the axis of the cylinder so that the cam track forms a complete circuit for the pin during movement of the piston into and out of the cylinder.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): An inhaler according to claim 7, wherein the cam track includes a region between the helical portion and ~~the~~ a straight portion having a pitch that is substantially zero degrees relative to a plane perpendicular to the axis of the cylinder.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): An inhaler according to claim 4 wherein ~~the~~ a helical portion of the cam track has a pitch angle that varies along the length of the piston so that the linear distance traveled by the piston reduces relative to the angle through which it rotates during the compression stroke to increase the mechanical advantage

Claim 18 (Currently amended): An inhaler according to claim 1 wherein the piston comprises a body portion and a handle portion, ~~the~~ a cam track being formed at an interface between the body portion and the handle portion

Claim 30 (Currently amended): An inhaler according to claim ~~29~~ 25, wherein the charge of compressed gas is exhausted through the main diaphragm port when the charge is released.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): An inhaler according to claim ~~21~~ 24, wherein the co-operating means engage for approximately ~~the~~ a last 180 degrees of rotation of the piston into the cylinder so that the rotary valve plate rotates relative to the valve module through 180 degrees

Claim33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (cancelled)

Claim 35 (cancelled)

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figure 5 requires correction by adding an indication that all of the elements are connected in the same assembly. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not discloses the specific structure and relationship as recited in claim 1 such that an inhaler having the feature of a means for increasing the mechanical advantage during a compression stroke so that the effort applied by the user remains substantially constant and wherein the effort applied is a torque operable to rotate a piston is novel to an inhaler. The closest related prior art is Newhouse (5,349,947) which discloses a powder inhaler that has a means for increasing the mechanical

advantage during a compression stroke but this means does not include a rotating piston.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER BLIZZARD whose telephone number is (571)270-7138. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 9:00AM -5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on (571)2724835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHRISTOPHER BLIZZARD/
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